



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, June 21, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NTV and TBS led with reports that the Japan Meteorological Agency announced this morning that the rainy season officially began in the Hokuriku and Tohoku regions today. NHK, Fuji TV and TV Asahi led with reports on the heavy rain in the Kansai and Tokai regions.

## SECURITY

### ASDF discloses PAC-3 deployment drill to media at Camp Asaka

NHK and Fuji TV reported at noon that in response to North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches, the ASDF disclosed a PAC-3 deployment exercise to media at Camp Asaka in Tokyo and Saitama prefectures today. NHK said a total of nine vehicles carrying PAC-3 launchers and radars arrived at the camp early this morning. The network said while PAC-3 deployment exercises are regularly held at SDF bases across Japan, the drill was disclosed today to give the public a sense of security. There are reportedly 17 SDF units in charge of PAC-3 deployment across Japan, and the MOD is planning to carry out similar training in places other than SDF facilities, such as U.S. bases.

### Yamaguchi leader to announce acceptance of Navy air wing at Iwakuni base

Mainichi reported on a meeting held yesterday between MOFA Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kishi and Yamaguchi Governor Muraoka on Tuesday, during which the MOFA official explained that the current central government subsidy of about 2 billion yen per year for the prefecture in connection with U.S. force realignment will be extended and expanded. Noting that the prefectural government has been seeking the extension and expansion of the subsidy in exchange for hosting Atsugi-based U.S. Navy aircraft carrier squadrons at MCAS Iwakuni, the paper projected

that the governor is likely to officially announce his endorsement of the relocation in the near future.

### **GOJ condones use of Navy ramp at Kadena**

Ryukyu Shimpo reported on a position paper adopted by the Abe cabinet on Tuesday concerning the U.S. military's claim that the use of the Navy ramp at Kadena AB does not constitute a violation of a U.S.-Japan agreement. The GOJ document reportedly states: "We are aware of the claim made by the United States. The continued use [of the ramp] needs to be in accordance with the spirit of the noise reduction measures cited in the SACO final report." The daily took this as the GOJ's acceptance of the U.S. military's intention to continue using the Navy facility at the installation.

### **Onaga submits motion to block FRF construction**

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times reported on the opening of the summer session of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly yesterday, noting that Governor Onaga submitted a motion asking for the legislature's consent for his plan to file a lawsuit against the central government in order to derail the ongoing FRF initiative off Camp Schwab. He also submitted a separate motion seeking some \$50,000 to cover litigation costs. The governor is planning to file a suit with the local court immediately after the assembly endorses the motions on July 14.

- [\*\*LDP panel's report seeks enemy base attack capability, enhanced missile defense\*\*](#) (Yomiuri)
- [\*\*Gov't to air TV commercials on evacuation procedures for North Korean missile launch\*\*](#) (Yomiuri)
- [\*\*Honda plant halts production due to ransomware cyberattack\*\*](#) (Kyodo News)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **ROK president says Japan should officially apologize for comfort women issue**

TBS reported at noon that ROK President Moon said during in an [interview](#) with the Washington Post held ahead of the planned U.S.-ROK summit that Japan should "officially apologize" for the comfort women issue. According to the network, President Moon said: "The key to resolving the issue is for Japan to take legal responsibility for its actions and to make an official [government] apology." The network said this was the first time for President Moon to demand an apology from Japan over the issue since he took office last month.

- [\*\*Japan, S. Korea foreign ministers agree to boost pressure on N. Korea\*\*](#) (Kyodo News)
- [\*\*Japan farm minister to visit Europe next week for free trade talks\*\*](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Kazamidori column: Pinning high hopes on Abe-Moon relationship](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP, Komeito to hold exchange event with Chinese communist party in August](#) (Yomiuri)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 20](#) (Nikkei)
- [Deputy CCS Hagiuda close to Abe and Kake school operator](#) (Asahi)
- [Appointment of next LDP secretary general to be focus of reshuffle in August](#) (FACTA)
- [LDP panel starts deliberation on Article 9 revision](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Fresh evidence keeps Abe's latest school scandal in spotlight](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [File implies Abe's specific instruction given in "favoritism" scandal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Deputy chief Cabinet secretary flat out denies involvement in favoritism scandal](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Opposition steps up offensive with new document found implicating Abe in Kake Gakuen scandal](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Nikai says Koizumi Jr., Hashimoto may be on Abe's list of candidates for new ministerial post](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Relentless effort needed to clear up Moritomo land scandal](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Abe's sincerity pledge over Kake favoritism affair fails to convince](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Parties gearing up for upcoming Tokyo assembly election](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abe shows softer side, but is it for show ahead of Tokyo election?](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

## OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet nonsupport surpasses support rate, Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)

- [Cabinet support rate in Mainichi Shimbun poll differs due to question responses offered](#) (Mainichi)
- [36% oppose adding SDF clause to Constitution, Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cabinet support rate falls to 47%, support for creation of “terrorism prep crime” at 49%, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Sankei Shimbun](#) (Sankei)

## ECONOMY

### [Western Digital reacts sharply to Toshiba’s move to sell semiconductor unit](#)

Nikkei reported online on a statement released on Tuesday by Western Digital concerning Toshiba’s selection of a government-led consortium, including Innovation Network Corp. of Japan and U.S. equity fund Bain Capital, as the preferred bidder for its profitable memory chip unit. The U.S. semiconductor firm stated: “Toshiba has no right to transfer Toshiba Memory to a third party without our consent. We have not given our consent to any transaction, and will continue to protect our interests through the arbitration process. “

- [Japan eyes nuclear pact with U.S. that renews automatically](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Toshiba picks gov’t-led group as preferred bidder for memory chip unit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Interview: Former Acting U.S. Trade Representative Wendy Cutler on TPP minus U.S.](#) (Asahi)
- [EU set to abolish sake, green tea tariffs](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, EU in final stages of EPA negotiations](#) (Yomiuri)
- [MRJ regional jet on target for 1st delivery in mid-2020](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [10% of Japanese government bonds owned by foreign investors](#) (Nikkei)

## SOCIETY

### [Japan Atomic Energy Agency workers exposed to plutonium](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on a recent accident at a facility of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) in Ibaraki Prefecture in which five workers were exposed to plutonium after a plastic

bag containing the radioactive material ruptured. The five workers were slow to respond because they were not prepared for such a situation. According to the program, all five of them suffered internal radiation exposure, although no plutonium was found in their lungs. The program said it found that plutonium for research purposes has been stored inappropriately for an extended period of time at JAEA's eight facilities located across Japan, pointing out the need to raise awareness of the situation concerning plutonium and improve safety management systems.

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